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SUBJECT: PRC: "RELEVANT DEPARTMENTS" HAVE NOT MISTREATED
GAO ZHISHENG

Classified By: Deputy Political Section Chief
Ben Moeling. Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) MFA IO Human Rights Division Official Wang Gang, responding to the Embassy's representations expressing grave concern for the well-being of rights lawyer Gao Zhisheng, told PolOff March 27 that "relevant departments" have "never mistreated" Gao. Wang said Gao is a confessed "criminal" who is "serving the probation period of his sentence." Wang stated that judicial authorities "resisted" responding to the Embassy's inquiry about Gao because "they claim they are independent" and "think we should be tough on foreign intervention." Wang said Gao was convicted of inciting state subversion and sentenced to three years in prison and one year's deprivation of political rights. Because of Gao's "meritorious activities," Wang said, his sentence was suspended for five years. Wang said Gao now "resides in Beijing" but provided no further information concerning Gao's condition.

¶2. (C) PolOff conveyed the United States government's deep concern for Gao's well-being, noting reports that he was severely tortured in the past and faces a risk to his life. Wang had no direct response, but asked the USG not to "believe rumors or take ungrounded actions." Wang said he hoped the United States would not do anything "harmful to the upcoming London G20 summit or Sino-U.S. relations," though he did not directly link this statement to Gao's case.

PICCUTA